

team on an outstanding 2011 season. Yesterday, the Punchers won the Class 1A, Division I Texas state championship and ended their season with a perfect record, 15–0.

I want to congratulate the team on their dedication and hard work. It takes determination and focus to win a state championship, and the focus must be all the greater to do it on top of a perfect season. I applaud the perseverance of the team.

Coach Kade Burns, as well as all the young men on this team, deserves recognition for the accomplishment. The 15–0 season was all the greater considering this was Coach Burns' first season as head coach at Mason.

I know that many years from now, these young men from Mason will look back on this day with fond memories. I encourage them to enjoy this achievement to the utmost, as it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

It is my honor to represent the student and families Mason and their state championship football team. Again, I congratulate the Mason Punchers on a perfect season and a state championship!

HONORING THE LIFE OF AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF JUDGE HOSEA T. "H.T." LOCKARD

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Judge H.T. Lockard, born Hosea T. Lockard on June 24, 1920. Judge Lockard was a civil rights leader, hero and pioneer who fought alongside giants to bring racial equality to Memphis, Tennessee and the surrounding area. He grew up on a small farm near Henning, Tennessee before deciding to attend LeMoyne College in Memphis in 1940.

Prior to completing his studies at LeMoyne College, Mr. Lockard chose to postpone his education to serve his country in the Army Medical Corps during World War II which included three and half years in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany. After his discharge in 1945, he continued his studies at Sorbonne University in Paris before returning to LeMoyne where he attained his bachelor's degree in 1947. After finishing at LeMoyne, H.T. Lockard was not allowed to attend a Tennessee law school due to segregation. Undeterred by challenges he faced in Tennessee, he pursued his Juris Doctorate by attending Lincoln University Law School in St. Louis, Missouri where he graduated in 1950. While in law school, H.T. Lockard observed that conditions for African-Americans in St. Louis were far better than those in Tennessee. After much debate, he made the tough decision to move back to Memphis where he began practicing law and working with the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, to improve race relations in Memphis.

Mr. Lockard once recalled how at a NAACP meeting, the topics of police brutality and segregation in public facilities were like music to his ears. He said, "... Good music, because that's what I wanted to get involved in and help bring about the change ... I was ready to roll up my sleeves and go and ready to tackle anything that needed to be tackled." In

1955, he assumed the presidency of the Memphis Branch of the NAACP and served in that position until 1958. H.T. Lockard headed up their legal committee and contributed to national efforts. During this time, H.T. Lockard was joined by Russell Sugarmon, Vasco and Maxine Smith, Jesse Turner, Billy Kyles and the late Benjamin Hooks and A.W. Willis. Together, these stalwarts of the civil rights movement fought for and won many victories including desegregating Memphis Street Railway Co., public buildings, restaurants and the University of Memphis, formerly Memphis State University.

H.T. Lockard broke significant barriers and paved the way for future African-American politicians in Memphis. In 1964, Mr. Lockard became the first African-American to hold elective office in Shelby County by being elected to the Shelby County Quarterly Court, now known as the County Commission. He then became active in local African-American political clubs and played a key role behind the scenes as an advisor on civil rights issues to President Lyndon B. Johnson. H.T. Lockard was appointed to serve as Administrative Assistant to Tennessee Governor Buford Ellington from 1967–1971 thereby becoming the first African-American cabinet member in the State of Tennessee. In 1975, H.T. Lockard became a Criminal Court judge and served until 1994.

Judge Lockard later served as a board member of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis from 1989–1999. He gave much of his time to the Memphis Charter Commission, a non-partisan group that reviewed the city Charter and made recommendations for changes to be presented to the citizens of Memphis through voter referendums. Mr. Lockard was awarded the Benjamin L. Hooks Award by the Memphis Bar Foundation in 2010 in recognition of his lifelong commitment to social justice and his prominence on the national stage.

Some of his closest colleagues and friends recounted his dedication to the civil rights movement while he was a lawyer and president of the NAACP. The late Vasco Smith, a former Shelby County Commissioner, said "... Lockard was pretty much the whole show. He did an outstanding job, and he probably laid the foundation for a lot of things that happened later on." His wife, Maxine Smith, a former executive secretary of the Memphis Branch of the NAACP described him as the inner circle of the civil rights movement in Memphis. Former General Sessions Court Judge Russell Sugarmon commented on H.T. Lockard saying "When he put his mind to something, he was a plow. He dug in and dug in and wouldn't let up ... If Lockard was on the other side, you'd better be prepared."

Judge Lockard was an exceptional judge, leader and gentleman. I had the pleasure of meeting him in 1970 when he and I supported Senator Stan Snodgrass for Tennessee governor. In addition to the legacy he leaves behind, I will remember Judge Lockard for his service to the community and his dedication to the bench. As an admirer of classic cars, I will also remember his convertible Thunderbird.

Judge Hosea T. "H.T." Lockard passed away on December 12, 2011 at 91 years of age. He leaves to memory his wife of 49 years, Ida Walker Lockard; three brothers, Emmitt Lockard, Albert Lockard Jr. and Lorenza Lockard; and one sister, Lydia Mor-

gan. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Judge H.T. Lockard. Judge H.T. Lockard will be remembered by many. His was a life well lived.

CONGRATULATING SILVER CROSS HOSPITAL

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Silver Cross Hospital, which is located in my district, for expanding its facilities to New Lenox, IL. In this new facility, the wonderful caregivers of Silver Cross will be better able to serve the many residents of Will County. Each and every day, healthcare professionals across the country provide life saving and sustaining help to those most in need. The professionals at Silver Cross exemplify the best qualities we have come to expect from our healthcare professionals. Their distinguished history provides a tremendous example for others to follow.

I would like to highlight just a couple of their accolades as they continue construction of their new state-of-the-art 289-bed hospital. First, Silver Cross Hospital has been named a 100 Top Hospital Award recipient for seven consecutive years by Thomson Reuters Healthcare, a leading provider of information and solutions to improve the quality and cost of healthcare. Only four hospitals in the nation have won the award for the last seven consecutive years. Secondly, new programs including an enhanced partnership with Children's Memorial Hospital, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and University of Chicago Medical Center will bring new services to patients and improve the health of the community.

It is a true pleasure to represent Silver Cross Hospital. This new facility will allow the Silver Cross family to better fulfill their vision, which is "We, the Silver Cross Family, are committed to our culture of excellence, and will deliver an unrivaled healthcare experience for our patients, their families and the community."

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF JOHN SULLIVAN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Sullivan on his retirement after 40 years in public service, including 38 with the Social Security Administration.

John Sullivan began his career in public service in 1972 when he joined NASA as a Budget Specialist. Two years later, Mr. Sullivan transferred to the Social Security Administration, where he would spend the next 38 years. Mr. Sullivan started in the Social Security Administration as Mail Clerk, quickly rising through the ranks to positions including Claims Representative, Quality Review Specialist, Supervisory Resident Representative, Branch Manager, Project Manager, and District Manager.